Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline project

*560. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been effectively eased out of Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline as Pakistan-Iran signed the agreement on 30th April, 2006 in Islamabad to lay a gas pipeline with the higher off-take for Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether there would be nothing left for India to buy in the 3.2 billion capacity pipeline;

(c) whether India has refused to join on these conditions;

(d) whether Iran has also not taken decision on LNG deal which is pending for long; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of Government on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) There were reports in some sections of the media about Iran-Pakistan reaching an agreement for higher offtake of gas by Pakistan from the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. However, Mr. M.H. Nejad Hosseinian, Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum, Islamic Republic of Iran, during his recent visit to New Delhi on 1-2 May, 2006 informed that no such Agreement has been signed between Iran and Pakistan.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) and (b) above.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The matter is being pursued with the Iranian side.